

A P P E A L
TO WORLD PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE
BY
KOREAN NATIONAL
PEACE CONGRESS

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Peace-loving people of the whole world!

Friends of all countries who aspire after the happiness and progress of mankind!

The tenth anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war (June 25) which stirred the whole world so deeply, is drawing near.

It is still fresh in the memory of the peoples of all countries what great anxiety gripped the whole world when the Korean war broke out ten years ago.

The peoples of all countries also vividly remember what great joy it brought to the whole world when the flames of war were extinguished at the cost of the very blood of the Korean people with the unanimous support and encouragement of the world peace-loving people.

Seven years have elapsed since then.

However, contrary to the earnest desire of the whole world at the time of the cease-fire in Korea, Korea has not yet been unified, armistice has not been converted into a lasting peace and the dark clouds of war hovering over the heads of the Korean people have not been dispelled.

Since the armistice, the political and economic catastrophe in South Korea has been further aggravated.

This finally led to the flare-up of the resistance struggle of the popular masses in South Korea for freedom, democracy and the right to live.

Already for two months and more, a sanguinary bloodshed has been taking place in South Korea.

The South Korean police under the command of the American advisors and the South Korean puppet army under the "U.N. Command" opened indiscriminate fire against the barehanded, peaceful demonstrators.

Even according to an announcement of the South Korean puppet authorities, seven thousand odd people have already been mercilessly killed or wounded with U.S. made tanks and guns since the popular uprising started.

The southern land of our fatherland is again dyed with the blood of the indignant people.

How did such a thing come to happen today in South Korea which had so noisily been advertised by the propaganda machinery of the United States as the "shop window of the free world" or "model of democracy"?

The U.S. ruling circles cannot evade an answer to this any longer.

Had the U.S. army withdrawn from South Korea and Korea been peacefully unified, the tragic situation we see today would never have happened in South Korea.

Unable to endure any longer the abject poverty and non-rights, the South Korean people finally rose up in the life and death struggle.

In face of the eruption of the popular wrath and anger that had been accumulating for the 15 years under the colonial, fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique, the American-directed puppet Syngman Rhee has been expelled from the "Presidency".

However, the ruling machinery of fascist terror remains intact in South Korea.

The American ruling circles framed up the "caretaker government" by putting up new puppet Huh Chung clique in place of Syngman Rhee, and, with this, they are going to placate and deceive the people. The "caretaker government" is nothing but the extension and a rehash of the Syngman Rhee puppet government.

Although the people have shed blood and the traitor Syngman Rhee has been expelled, freedom and democracy are still trampled underfoot even before they germinated, while none of their urgent, vital demands has been realized.

Any one who merely utters the words "peaceful unification"—the unanimous aspiration of the entire Korean people—is apprehended as a "communist fifth columnist" and people who shouted "Let us get rid of the box-houses" have been cruelly suppressed as "reds".

But the South Korean people are not deceived nor are they cowed by the suppression.

The South Korean people are demanding a new policy, new life and new leadership.

The unmitigated scheme of the American ruling circles to desperately forestall such trend is further aggravating the political, economic crisis in South Korea today and creating extreme chaos.

Peace-loving people of the whole world!

By now it has become clear beyond any dispute that the cause of the grave state of affairs created in South Korea today lies entirely in the colonial enslavement policy of the U.S. imperialists.

The U.S. ruling circles cannot evade the responsibility for this under any circumstances.

The history of the past 15 years' occupation of South Korea by the U.S. army is filled with the shameful, criminal records of strangling freedom and democracy, indulging in aggression and plunder and of obstructing peace and the unification of Korea.

The U.S. army which landed in South Korea following Korea's liberation started, from the first day, to behave like a tyrannical master in the capacity of a colonial ruler.

They dissolved by force the people's committees—the genuine power organ of the people set up by the Korean people themselves—and framed up the Syngman Rhee puppet regime at the point of the bayonet and through fraud.

South Korea has been completely turned into a market for American goods and their source of raw materials.

Immediately after they landed in South Korea the U.S. military government seized, with a single proclamation, the key to the South Korean economy and deliberately destroyed or disposed of factories and enterprises.

Due to such machinations, the South Korean industry and rural economy have been dilapidated as a whole.

Today the industrial output of South Korea has dwindled to about one half and the grain output by 40 per cent, as compared with the end of the Japanese imperialist rule.

It is not accidental that the whole land of South Korea is stricken by hunger and poverty today.

Millions of unemployed and semi-unemployed are tramping the streets.

The wages of workers who have jobs are less than one third of the minimum living expenses and even these are often unpaid for several months.

The foodless peasants whose number is rapidly growing year after year are setting out on wanderers' life, unable to get even grass roots and tree bark to eat.

Sick people including consumptives cannot go to hospitals because they have no money and are dying a pitiable death after suffering alone.

Hundreds of thousands of waifs and war widows have been driven to despair, having no one to rely upon.

Unable to put up any longer with the difficulties of living in the lowest depths, people are committing family suicide. Some people even asked "to be taken into prison rather than be left to die from hunger." Such tragedies are taking place not infrequently.

Due to lack of funds, raw material and market, middle and small traders and enterprisers are daily going bankrupt and dropping out to join the ranks of the unemployed.

The youths and students, denied the opportunity to study freely, are pressganged into the puppet army and even those who have managed to finish schools are having hard time because they cannot get jobs.

South Korea has literally turned into a land of darkness.

What the South Korean people termed as the "greatest difficulties of living in four thousand years" is the disastrous outcome of the "aid" of dollars so much advertised by the U.S. imperialists.

Such is the whole truth about the falsified report the "United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea" submits annually to the U.N. alleging that the "South Korean economy is improving".

Can they dare even now talk about the "aid" of the dollar and the "improvement" of the South Korean economy?

The U.S. imperialists are held entirely responsible for all this.

The U.S. imperialists have not only plunged South Korea into the mire of poverty and hunger but converted the whole area of South Korea into a colonial prison.

Is there any other place on earth like South Korea where there is such a tight police network and so many prisons overflowing with prisoners?

In the one year of 1959 alone, as many as 247,000 guiltless people were arrested and imprisoned and many of them murdered.

All the political parties and social organizations which fell out of line with the U.S. imperialists' colonial policy have been suppressed and dissolved and all publications reporting the truth have been suspended temporarily or permanently.

There is no norm of laws or morals whatever in South Korea today; only lawlessness and chaos prevail there.

It is known throughout the world what atrocities the U.S. occupationist army is incessantly committing in South Korea.

American officers and soldiers, in groups, have raided and set fire to rural villages in daytime and looted properties and violated women, shot men and women, young and old at random and run over the people with the cars.

With no words can one describe all the brutalities the U.S. army is committing against the Korean people.

The barbarity and massacres the U.S. army perpetrated against the peaceful inhabitants during the Korean war are something a parallel of which can hardly be found in the history of war.

During their temporary occupation of the northern part of the Republic, they slaughtered more than 35,300 people in Sinchun County, Hwanghai Province, alone.

Cold-blooded massacres of the peaceful population perpetrated by the Syngman Rhee puppet clique under the instigation of the U.S. imperialists during the war are being uncovered in many parts of South Korea also today.

Such are the "samples" of the "modern civilization" of the United States and the American-styled "philanthropy" and the American-styled "democracy".

The Korean people are wrathful to the marrow of their bones at the atrocities committed by the U.S. imperialists.

The Korean people cannot tolerate nor can they ever forget all the outrages perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists.

We indict the U.S. imperialists before all conscientious people of the world for their crimes committed in Korea.

The U.S. imperialists' colonial enslavement policy towards South Korea is the root cause of barring the peaceful unification of Korea.

Instead of drawing a due lesson from the serious defeat in the past Korean war they ignited, the U.S. ruling circles are again aggravating tension and perpetrating war provocation manoeuvres even before the ink in which they signed the armistice agreement dried up.

When we exerted every effort to abide by the armistice agreement and unilaterally reduced the numerical strength of our armed forces by 80,000, the U.S. imperialists increased the South Korean puppet army from 16 divisions to 31, expelled the inspection teams of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission from South Korea and unilaterally abrogated the relevant provision of the armistice agreement prohibiting the introduction of reinforcing combat materials into Korea.

The U.S. army reorganized into peritomic units has incessantly staged provocative "atomic mobile operations" exercises near the military demarcation line and conducted the firing of "matador" and various other illegally introduced guided missiles.

U.S. President Eisenhower declared that the 38th parallel of Korea, which is thousands of kilometres away from the mainland of America with the Pacific Ocean in between was the "defence line" of the United States.

What a brazen, robber's logic it is!

With such logic he cannot cover up their aggressive nature before the people of the whole world.

The U.S. imperialists have also turned down the repeated fair proposals of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for peacefully solving the Korean question.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea time and again put forward proposals for settling the Korean question by the Korean people themselves after the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea.

At our proposal, the Chinese People's Volunteers completely withdrew from North Korea on their own initiative one and a half years ago.

But the U.S. imperialists have not withdrawn their troops from South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique obstinately opposed the North-South political negotiation for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

Therefore, we proposed to realize at least the economic and cultural exchange, free travel and postal exchange between the North and South, apart from the political questions.

But they rejected this, too.

Proceeding from compatriotism and humanitarianism, we proposed

time and again to send relief goods for the South Korean people who are suffering from starvation and poverty.

But even this has not been realized due to the obstruction of the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique.

Today when nations of all countries with different colours of skin, political views and religious beliefs are visiting each other and promoting friendship, an unbearable situation is continuing in Korea in which parents, wives and children, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends cannot even communicate with each other, to say nothing of meeting with each other, though they are within calling distance.

Who will call this a normal phenomenon?

Today the only way of speedily overcoming the grave situation created in South Korea and realizing the vital demand of the South Korean people lies in holding negotiation between the representatives of the North and South at one place.

As long as South Korea is left alone, isolated from the northern part where the firm foundation of a self-supporting national economy has been laid, no one in power, whoever he may be, can tide over the present acute crisis created in South Korea.

The people in the northern part are leading a hope-filled life in which they know no unemployment and have no worry about food, clothing and housing, and the youth and students are studying free of charge and the entire people are ensured free medical care.

Working happily for the prosperity of the country and for their own happiness and studying freely and enjoying rest—such is the life of the people of the northern part today.

The people of the northern part are eager to see at an early date their brilliant achievements being used for the people of the southern part, too.

For this, we have already proposed to convene a joint conference of political parties and social organizations of North and South Korea.

The proposal has evoked great reaction among the South Korean people.

Time is maturing.

For realizing the demand of the South Korean people who are fighting, shedding blood, the fascist ruling machinery of Syngman Rhee must be completely abolished, all evil laws for suppressing the people repealed, free activities of all political parties and social organizations guaranteed and the democratic rights of the people ensured.

This is the right of the Korean people which no one is allowed to encroach upon.

The U.S. imperialists must not interfere any longer in the Korean people's settling their destiny by themselves.

Peace-loving peoples of all countries!

We once again appeal to you to resolutely condemn, in the name of

human conscience and peace, the aggressive criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists in Korea.

The U.S. imperialist aggressive army must pull out of South Korea first of all for overcoming the present critical situation in South Korea, peacefully unifying Korea and removing a nidus of war in Korea and the Far East.

The U.S. government must immediately withdraw its army from South Korea together with atomic and rocket weapons and all other lethal weapons illegally introduced into South Korea.

Those governments which dispatched their troops to South Korea in subservience to the U.S. imperialists, must also withdraw their troops at an early date.

We also address ourselves to the United Nations. The U.N. should withdraw all the disgraceful "resolutions" on the Korean question which it illegally adopted in the past ten years and more under the pressure of the U.S. imperialists and see to it that the U.S. imperialists do not abuse the U.N. flag any more in their aggressive act against Korea.

The U.N. should take immediate measures for dissolving the "United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea," a tool of the U.S. imperialists, and for withdrawing U.S. troops from South Korea.

We are convinced that the just demand of the Korean people will enjoy the support of all men of goodwill the world over.

Wherever the U.S. imperialists set foot, there can be no happiness of the people or peace.

The U.S. imperialists must immediately pull out of South Korea, Japan, South Viet-Nam, Taiwan and other areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Today we are living in an era in which the peace forces are incomparably stronger than the war forces and the united might of the people is overpowering the foes of peace.

Let us, men of goodwill, unite strength and voices against the imperialists who are plundering the territories and wealth of others and encroaching upon the happiness of mankind and peace!

Let us unite our strength and resolutely fight to bring the flower garden of peace and friendship to full bloom all over the world!

World conscience and justice will win victory without fail!

**Korean National Peace Committee
Korean Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee
General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea
Korean Democratic Youth League
Korean Democratic Women's Union
Korean Students' Committee**

*May 23, 1960
Pyongyang*